

# Post office finishes year in the black

WASHINGTON (AP) — The accountants confirmed Tuesday what Postmaster General Marvin Runyon has been saying for weeks: The post office made a profit last year.

"We had the largest net income in the history of the Postal Service at \$1.77 billion," Runyon told the agency's governing board.

"Early results for the current fiscal year show that they are keeping the momentum going," Runyon added. The first two accounting periods of the fiscal year that began Oct. 1 showed the service \$841 million in the black, \$182 million more than forecast.

The \$1.77 billion net for the year that ended Sept. 30 follows a loss of \$914 million the year before.

Postal rates increased — to 32 cents for a first-class letter — last Jan. 1, a revenue boost that helped pushed the agency into the black, along with an increase in mail volume.

In the past the agency has followed a three-year cycle, making a profit the year after an increase, breaking even the next year and losing money the third year, before raising rates again. The 1995 increase came after four years of constant prices, however, rather than three.

The last year the post office showed a net profit was fiscal 1989, when it finished \$61 million in the black.

Michael Riley, the agency's chief financial officer, told the board that the post office's 1995 revenue was up \$4.9 billion from the \$49 billion received in 1994. Of the increase, \$3.7 billion was due to higher postage costs and \$1.2 billion to increased mail volume, Riley said.

Accumulated debt at the end of fiscal 1995 was \$7.3 billion, down \$1.7 billion from the year before.

The post office handled a record 180.7 billion pieces of mail in 1995, Riley said, up from 177 billion a year earlier.

## Postal Service yule message: Mail early

Mail early to beat the Christmas rush, U.S. Postal Service officials say. *12-9-95*

The countdown has begun, and Utahns are encouraged to mail their gifts and cards now to ensure that they will reach their destination in time for the holidays, said Salt Lake Postmaster Ralph Hamilton.

"Mail early in the day and early in the season," Hamilton said.

To help accommodate the large volume of letters and packages that inundate facilities, many post offices in the state have already expanded their hours and increased staff.

On Monday, Dec. 11 and 18, the two busiest mailing days of the year, all Salt Lake post offices and most larger post offices in the state will open at 7:30 a.m.

In Salt Lake City, post offices are expanding business hours to brace for the busy holiday mailing season. (See accompanying box for hours and location.) Sixteen Utah post offices will also be open for business Sunday, Dec. 17, and 12 post offices will be open Sunday, Dec. 24. Call your local post office for details.

Temporary post offices will be open in three Salt Lake area malls, Fashion Place, Valley Fair and South Towne, through Sunday, Dec. 24. The postal stations will be open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sundays.

### When S.L. Valley post offices will be open

The following are the holiday hours at post offices in Salt Lake Valley:

- Cottonwood, 6890 S. 2300 East, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Downtown, 230 W. 200 South, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 17, 24, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Foothill, 2255 Sunnyside Ave., Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Holladay, 2350 Arbor Lane, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 17, 24: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Kearns, 5495 S. 4015 West, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Main Post Office, 1760 W. 2100 South, Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Millcreek, 3350 S. 2940 East, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Murray, 4989 S. State, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturdays, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Northwest, 801 N. Redwood Road, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Pioneer (ZCMI Center), 36 S. State, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
- South Salt Lake, 3161 S. West Temple, Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Sugarhouse, 1953 S. 1100 East, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- West Valley, 3490 S. 4400 West, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Airport Post Office, south of main terminal, open 24 hours daily every day.

\* All post offices will open at 7:30 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 11 and Dec. 18.

To make mailing greeting cards easier, Hamilton suggests using the new peel and stick holiday

postage stamps. "They don't cost any more than those you lick," he said.